

REPORT

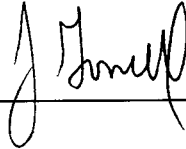
DATE: February 2, 2006

TO: Administration and Regional Council

FROM: Lambertus H. Becker, Interim Chief Financial Officer
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SUBJECT: Resolution # 06-471-5 authorizing SCAG to accept \$660,000 in Caltrans State Planning & Research grant funds.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution # 06-471-5 authorizing SCAG to accept \$660,000 in Caltrans State Planning & Research grant funds and amend the SCAG Overall Work Plan (OWP).

SUMMARY:

Caltrans intends to award approximately \$660,000 in State Planning & Research (SP&R) funds to SCAG to finance a freeway corridor improvement study of the I-405 and I-210 aimed at utilizing operational strategies to improve system performance. Caltrans has requested that SCAG accept this funding and obtain and manage consultant services to perform the study, which will also be used as a "template" or management guide for model corridor management planning to be used throughout the state.

BACKGROUND:

The goal of this project is to improve freeway corridor management planning and to develop and test a standard corridor planning template for use by Caltrans, as well as regional and local agencies.

At the January meeting, the Regional Council adopted Resolution # 06-470-1 authorizing SCAG to accept \$300,000 in SP&R funds for a freeway corridor study for the I-405. Caltrans has now increased the grant award by an additional \$360,000 to \$660,000, so that the I-210 corridor can be included in the study.

Corridor management is a process for effective decision making that incorporates systematic study procedures to:

- assess transportation deficiencies
- identify options to address the deficiencies
- evaluate the options in a comprehensive manner

Additionally, community needs (livable communities, environmental justice), multi-modal transportation services, environmental impacts, performance outcomes, and financial feasibility are significant factors in the application of the corridor management process.

Caltrans has been developing system management strategies for several years in consultation with regional and local agencies, with the aim of managing the state highway system and adjacent major local arterials more efficiently.

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Caltrans has designated certain corridors for aggressive implementation of ITS strategies such as traffic control (freeway ramp metering & arterial signalization), traveler information, and incident management. These strategies will complement other improvements such as transit and rail, maintaining state and local agency roadways, and some highway capacity improvements in order to provide the multi-faceted approach needed for sound system management.

The plan developed from this effort will serve as a standard template or best practices for use on other corridors as they become ready for the implementation of system management strategies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No local cash or in-kind contribution will be required for this grant, per information received from Caltrans staff.